

East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the School Fields Trust Hall
on Tuesday 11th November 2025

Councillors present:

Beverley Hawker (Chair), Ian Moyse, Lou Cranton, Mike Husband, Anna Ronstand and Mike Urwin

In attendance:

Sue James Parish Clerk, District Cllr Dan Poole and County Cllr Keith Mans

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2025

Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2025.

BH drew attention to item 5 of the minutes.

BH wished to convey her thanks to Cllr Poole for his help in resolving the problems with the lack of bottle collections and that the waste collections in East Boldre are gradually improving.

4. To Receive Clerk's Report

The Councillors **Noted** that the NFNPA had been notified of the planning responses, that MU had been supplied with X-Net contact details and that Helping Older People information had been posted to the website. The Clerk had invited Forestry England to the meeting, but that invitation had been declined.

Allotments – 2 plots have been vacated and three are in the process of being taken up.

Emails – X-Net have suggested migrating the councillors' emails early to solve the issues being experienced

Police Precept – The Police Commissioner is requesting feedback regarding the contribution to policing **Clerk to post details on website.**

5. Report by County Councillor

Local Government Re-organisation - Councillor Mans stated that he had nothing further to report on Local Government Re-organisation. Cllr Mans thought it would be by the end of the year before more information regarding the unitary authority would be available.

Devolved Budget Grants - Cllr Mans apologised to the village hall committee that their application for further funding for the restoration project did not meet the criteria, as it was the same project they had been given funding for the previous year.

New Forest National Parks Authority - Cllr Mans reported that he has been elected Deputy Chair of the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA). He was congratulated by the Councillors. In this capacity Cllr Mans reported the NFNPA concerns that any funds raised by the introduction of parking

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charges in the forest, should not leave the area. Forestry England (FE) has yet to provide information on how much money is likely to be raised but has confirmed that any funds raised will go to the Southern area of Forestry England. This area covers not only Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, but the whole of Dorset and parts of West Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire and Wiltshire.

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Forestry%20England%20District%20Map%202020.pdf> .

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

BH asked if Cllr Mans would be willing to make a contribution to the Youth Drop In Centre.

Cllr Mans would be happy to contribute, if the Chairman applies.

MH thanked Cllr Mans for all his support with the restoration project of village hall. **The Chairman will apply for a grant from the devolved budget for the Youth drop in centre.**

6. Report by District Councillor

Car Park Charges - Cllr Poole reported that the NFNPA were questioning where the money raised from parking fees would be spent. Concerns had also been raised regarding the effects on the forest from verge parking, to avoid paying parking fees, and the possible methods for prevention, such as dragon's teeth and double yellow lines. Cllr Poole reported that other Partners were also unhappy with the proposals and were discussing the possibility of an adjournment debate in the house of commons.

Local Government Re-organisation - Cllr Poole reported that the Local Government Re-organisation had been discussed at a District Council Event. The New Forest is the worst affected of all the Districts. Many Districts have paused the development and implementation of their Local Plan, including New Forest District Council, until confirmation of the new Unitary Authority. The NFNPA has chosen to continue.

Community Safety – Cllr Poole reported that community safety was focused on domestic abuse and shop lifting. With regards to shop lifting, Lymington was the worst affected area. UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) is a one stop shop for reporting incidents. 30 Lymington shops have already signed up.

Grants – Cllr Poole was pleased to announce that he has provided the village hall with a grant for £500 and that he still has money available.

6.1 To receive questions on the report of the District Councillor

BH asked Cllr Poole if he would support the youth drop in project for East Boldre. Cllr Poole was happy to do this and requested an email with details of the project and bank details.

MH thanked Cllr Poole for all his support to the village hall restoration project. **The Chairman will apply for a grant for the Youth Drop In.**

7. Public Session

There were no Public present.

8. Introduction of Parking Charges

Charlotte Belcher, FE representative attended the last Quadrant meeting. She explained the logic behind the charges which will be introduced in Spring 2026. The cost will range from £1.80 to £8.00 for a daily/overnight stay. Tickets will be transferable between all FE car parks within the area on the day of issue. There will be a £94 annual membership giving access to all FE car parks across the country.

10 rangers are to be appointed. 7 permanent and 3 fixed term for 2 years.

There will be 20 payment machines across 16 car parks. Payment will be made online or through 'Ringo' type machines. Names of car parks are not available at present.

Any profits made would be spent across the Southern District

Cllrs were not clear on the current expenditure on the maintenance of FE car parks in the New Forest or the projected monies FE were expecting to raise from charging. This needs clarification.

Concerns were expressed regarding verge parking and an increase in parking throughout the Parish. Cllrs felt some residents could not and would not want to pay an annual membership of £94 to park at any FE car park in the country. It was felt that we should pursue the possibility of a reduced annual membership for New Forest FE car parks only.

Some elderly people may have difficulty using the 'Ringo' style machines. What support will be available?

BH suggested a letter should be sent to Richard Burke (FE) addressing the points raised, with a copy to Julian Lewis (MP)

Cllrs agreed.

Clerk to compose draft letter to send to FE and copy to MP

9. Planning

9.1 New Applications

25/01177FULL Glenstone House, Main Road, East Boldre SO42 7WT – Council RESOLVED the application as follows:

No Objections to proposed pruning/pollarding of 1 x weeping willow.

9.2 Determined Applications

**25/01099CONS Muddy Bottom Cottage, 3 Pages Lane, SO42 7WG – Fell 2 x Eucalyptus Trees
No Objection**

10. Finance

10.1 Monthly accounts for October and bank reconciliation (published to website) – Resolved and signed

10.2 BH presented the draft budget

The draft Budget for 2026-27 has been produced on a static income, unless there is agreement to increase the precept and/or increase the rent for the allotments.

- We are budgeting for an increase on administration, primarily for an increase in salary costs as we have now appointed a new clerk on a permanent basis.

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- There is significant increase in community expenditure because of our decision to trial the Youth drop in centre for teenagers 11 to 18, at the village hall and outstanding maintenance work.
- Allotment expenditure is stable
- We are budgeting for a significant deficit of around £4,041. But this is manageable within our brought forward reserves of around £18,525. This would leave us with around £14,000.

Draft Budget Resolved and Signed

- 10.3 October payments and income (published to website) - Council **RESOLVED** the payments and **NOTED** the income
- 10.4 2026-27 Precept request discussed. Decision regarding Precept request will be deferred until after December payments have been made, and figures are available on the effect of any increase. **Clerk to provide metrics and date for precept submission**
- 10.5 Allotment rent. The Councillors discussed increase. The consensus was that rents have risen substantially and that the Allotment Association had raised a lot of money to improve the site. The importance of renting the vacant plots was acknowledged. Rents to be revisited March 2026. **Clerk to arrange advertisements in 'East Boldre and Beyond' and Lymington.com**
11. **Governance**
- 11.1 Email renewal update. Clerk has provided X-Net with approval to bring forward the migration of the Councillors' emails to solve problems being experienced. Councillors will be sent emails with instructions prior to 'go live' date. **Noted. Clerk will request details of progress and any possible disruption. Will ensure AR is included in emails.**

12. To receive reports from external meetings

The Chairman attended the Quadrant meeting

- Phase 2 of waste disposal was discussed.
 - Information on the Local Government Re-organisation would be fed back between November and January with a decision by the end of March 2026.
 - Forestry England reported an increase in abandoned and burnt out vehicles and wished to encourage residents to report any abandoned vehicles where the vehicle hasn't been taped.
 - The search for alternative means of transport into the New Forest. **Clerk to post New Forest Transport Survey to website.**
 - The Dibden Bay development is likely to progress
 - The widening of the A362 will progress regardless of the outcome of the Solent Gateway 2. This could cause an increase in traffic across the Forest the NFNPA need to take an active role in the development.
 - The Fawley Refinery Site is to be used as a carpark for containers.
 - The local cycling and walking plan has been approved without funding.
- Speed Watch - The local Speed Watch have conducted 2 sessions and will be carrying out 3 more in November. The next speed watch will be held in February 2026. Councillors are aware that a speed monitor appears randomly in the village. Nobody is aware of where it originates and what data is being collected. **Chairman to investigate who owns and if data is available.**

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Village Hall - MH reported that a precontract meeting had been held with the builders regarding the village hall. A revised price from the builders was imminent. The village Hall had been informed that 4 weeks' notice was required for the builder's staff and that they would close for 2 weeks over Christmas. Delays had been caused due to the asbestos in the walls of the hall. Although work could start on these walls the Christmas holiday would leave the hall exposed over the Christmas period which was unacceptable. It is therefore likely that work will commence in the new year. Whilst there is no fixed completion date, it is anticipated to be April 2026, as all planning permission and funds are in place and all planning conditions have been approved. MH would like to thank the Garfield Trust for the £30,000 contribution to the renovations.

13. Agenda items for next meeting

14. To confirm next Parish Council meeting a 7.00 pm on 13th January 2026 at the School Fields Trust Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Chairman's signature:

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